

Amendment dated May 8, 2008

Reply to Office Action of November 8, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A moisture crosslinkable polymeric composition comprising:
 - a. a silane-functionalized olefinic polymer;
 - b. an acidic silanol condensation catalyst; and
 - c. an antioxidative composition consisting essentially of an antioxidant, not having a tertiary alkyl-substituted aryl or phenolic group,wherein the polymeric composition does not generate a high amount of a foul-smelling gas, a combustible gas, or both.
2. (Currently Amended) The moisture crosslinkable polymeric composition of Claim 1 wherein the silane-functionalized olefinic polymer is selected from the group consisting of (a) a copolymer of ethylene and a hydrolyzable silane, (b) a copolymer of ethylene, a hydrolyzable silane, and one or more C3 or higher alpha-olefins ~~and/or~~ unsaturated esters, (c) a homopolymer of ethylene, having a hydrolyzable silane grafted to its backbone, and (d) a copolymer of ethylene and one or more C3 or higher alpha-olefins ~~and/or~~ unsaturated esters, having a hydrolyzable silane grafted to its backbone.
3. (Original) The moisture crosslinkable polymeric composition of Claim 1 wherein the acidic silanol condensation catalyst is selected from the group consisting of (a) organic sulfonic acids and hydrolyzable precursors thereof, (b) organic phosphonic acids and hydrolyzable precursors thereof, and (c) halogen acids.
4. (Original) The moisture crosslinkable polymeric composition of Claim 3 wherein the acidic silanol condensation catalyst is an organic sulfonic acid selected from the group consisting of alkylaryl sulfonic acids, arylalkyl sulfonic acids, and alkylated aryl disulfonic acids.
5. (Original) The moisture crosslinkable polymeric composition of Claim 4 wherein the organic sulfonic acid is selected from the group consisting of substituted benzene sulfonic acids and substituted naphthalene sulfonic acids.
6. (Currently Amended) The moisture crosslinkable polymeric composition of Claim 4 wherein the organic sulfonic acid is dodecylbenzyl dodecylbenzene sulfonic acid.
7. (Currently Amended) The moisture crosslinkable polymeric composition of Claim 4 wherein the organic sulfonic acid is dinonylnaphthyl dinonylnaphthalene sulfonic acid.

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8. (Currently Amended) The moisture crosslinkable polymeric composition of Claim 1 wherein the antioxidant is selected from the group consisting of (a) phenolic antioxidants, (b) thio-based antioxidants, (c) ~~phosphate~~ phosphite-based antioxidants, and (d) hydrazine-based metal deactivators.

9. (Original) The moisture crosslinkable polymeric composition of Claim 8 wherein the antioxidant is isobutylidenebis(4,6-dimethylphenol).

10. (Currently Amended) The moisture crosslinkable polymeric composition of Claim 8 wherein the antioxidant is oxalyl bis(~~benzylidene~~ benzylidene hydrazide).

11. (Original) The moisture crosslinkable polymeric composition of Claim 1 wherein the antioxidant does not adversely affect the catalytic performance of the acidic silanol condensation catalyst.

12. (Original) A wire or cable construction prepared by applying the moisture crosslinkable polymeric composition of Claim 1 over a wire or cable.

13. (Currently Amended) A moisture crosslinkable polymeric composition comprising:

- a. a silane-functionalized olefinic polymer selected from the group consisting of (i) a copolymer of ethylene and a hydrolyzable silane, (ii) a copolymer of ethylene, a hydrolyzable silane, and one or more C3 or higher alpha-olefins ~~and—or~~ unsaturated esters, (iii) a homopolymer of ethylene, having a hydrolyzable silane grafted to its backbone, and (iv) a copolymer of ethylene and one or more C3 or higher alpha-olefins ~~and—or~~ unsaturated esters, having a hydrolyzable silane grafted to its backbone;
- b. an acidic silanol condensation catalyst selected from the group consisting of alkylaryl sulfonic acids, arylalkyl sulfonic acids, and alkylated aryl disulfonic acids; and
- c. an antioxidative composition consisting essentially of an antioxidant, not having a tertiary alkyl-substituted aryl or phenolic group selected from the group consisting of (i) phenolic antioxidants, (ii) thio-based antioxidants, (iii) ~~phosphate~~ phosphite-based antioxidants, and (iv) hydrazine-based metal deactivators,

wherein the polymeric composition does not generate a high amount of a foul-smelling gas, a combustible gas, or both.

14. (Currently Amended) A moisture crosslinkable polymeric composition comprising:

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- a. a silane-functionalized olefinic polymer;
- b. an acidic silanol condensation catalyst; and
- c. an antioxidative composition consisting essentially of an antioxidant, substantially free of substituents vulnerable to dealkylation in the presence of the acidic silanol condensation catalyst,

wherein the polymeric composition does not generate a high amount of a foul-smelling gas, a combustible gas, or both.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a moisture crosslinkable polymeric composition comprising the step of admixing

- a. a silane-functionalized olefinic polymer;
- b. an acidic silanol condensation catalyst; and
- c. an antioxidative composition consisting essentially of an antioxidant, not having a tertiary alkyl-substituted aryl or phenolic group,

wherein the polymeric composition does not generate a high amount of a foul-smelling gas, a combustible gas, or both.